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THE
ADVOCATE OF PEACE,
AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 1846.

No. XII.

TO THE READERS OF THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

WITH the present number we close our connection with the Advocate of Peace, and remit into the hands of the American Peace Society the organ of its principles and operations, which it has entrusted to our care for a year. When we undertook the publication of this periodical, upon our own pecuniary and literary responsibility, we hoped that it might be raised to the rank of the best monthly magazines of the day, so far as it regarded the variety and literary character of its contributions. We accordingly ventured, as it were, to begin on the ground, hoping to build up a new list of subscribers, who should not take the Advocate merely as *patrons*, but as interested readers, feeling that their subscriptions were not a mere matter of benevolence to some object of charity or philanthropic movement. We accordingly sent a printed prospectus of the Advocate, containing a table of contents of the first number, to all the old subscribers, notifying them that we did not feel authorised to send them the magazine, with its altered form and price, without a direct intimation from them that they were willing to receive it as paying subscribers. We printed 4,500 of the first No.,—a number less by one fourth than that of the nominal subscribers on the old list of the Advocate. But this number far exceeded the demand. Although it was stipulated in the transfer of the Advocate to our hands, that the agents of the American Peace Society should be supplied with the magazine at the very first cost, yet we doubt whether they have added one hundred subscribers to the list during the year. Having cut off, as it were, the whole of the old list of subscribers, we depended wholly upon the new ones we might procure through agents of our own, induced to solicit them by a

commission that merely left us the first cost of the publication. The American Peace Society agreed to take 500 copies of each No. at the rate of 50 cts. per volume of 12 Nos. Beside these, the President of the Society ordered a copy of each No. to be sent to every member of Congress, on his own account. We have taken as much pains, and have incurred as much expense, to promote the circulation of the Advocate, as if it were to remain in our hands as long as we lived.

Having been sometime absent from home, we do not know the number of actual, paying subscribers on our list; but, whatever it may be, we transfer it to the American Peace Society, and hope it may be multiplied a hundred fold by the zeal and talent which may be hereafter applied to the editorial department of the Advocate. We return them far more subscribers than we obtained from the old list that was placed in our hands when we assumed the publication. The agency we employed in securing most of these subscribers cost us 50 per cent. of the subscription price. The Society, or its agent, is welcome to them, and we would superadd our best wishes that the list may be increased to meet their warmest hopes.

We have taken some pains to enlist a corps of contributors whose productions should elevate and establish the literary character of the Advocate. This effort has cost us some correspondence which brought with it its own reward. In the volume closed with the present number, the reader will find original articles from President Nott, Thomas Dick, L. L. D., Rev. John Angell James, H. T. Macnamara, Esq., author of a Prize Essay on Peace, Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, and other able writers, both English and American.

We cannot take leave of such a respectable portion of our readers as those of the Advocate, without proffering them our kindest regards. We hope the connection we have mutually sustained for a year will not be entirely dissolved. In retiring from the Advocate, we do not retire from the advocacy of the principles of peace, or from efficient organs for that advocacy. We have incurred some pecuniary sacrifice in publishing the Advocate, without the evidence that it has done so much for the diffusion of peace principles as a different publication might have done. It could not be given away in very considerable numbers, and no one will subscribe for a work merely to be convinced by it of the error of his present views. The class of our readers whom we are now addressing may rest assured that we shall not abridge or contract our labors in the field of peace, on retiring from the Advocate. We are now circulating gratuitously, 20,000 "Bonds of Brotherhood" monthly, filled with a variety of articles almost entirely from our own pen. When we have recovered from the loss sus-

tained by publishing the Advocate, we intend to issue 50,000 of these "Bonds" monthly, for gratuitous distribution throughout the Union. We should be grateful for the assistance and sympathy of those whom we may meet no more in the pages of the Advocate.

To the American Peace Society we tender the assurance of our respectful consideration. We trust that it may not prove detrimental to the cause of Peace, that our different roads have met and merged for the distance intercepted between the beginning and end of one year. And having reached the point where those roads must diverge, let it be as with highways in the natural world, which, diverging, conduct parting travellers through different regions of equal peace and beauty. The mergence of our different courses was purely accidental. We had laid out our path and had walked therein far in the advocacy of peace principles, before we ever saw a member of the American Peace Society, or read one of its publications. And, we may say with honesty, we never associated ourself with that society with the hope of receiving more than we gave in return, either of influence or executive ability. And, on the eve of the dissolution of our connection, it affords us a sentiment of wealth as well as pleasure, that we are not a farthing the richer, nor they a farthing the poorer, in consequence of that connection. We are almost tempted to believe that the *reflection* of our labors in the cause, independent of that connection, has been as auspicious to the influence of the society, as any light they now shed upon our path of life and labor. Here, then, we may part friends, and feel that we are travelling, at least obliquely, in the same direction, though by different roads. The one we have chosen leads through fields of broader and bolder enterprise ; the one in which they prefer to walk, if we apprehend the direction aright, bends to merge with the easy highway of the multitude. The foundation principle of the constitution of the American Peace Society asserts the entire, uncompromising opposition of *all* War to Christianity. We could not retain any official relation to that society for a moment after one jot or tittle of this vital principle had been abated. We could not "keep rank" for a moment with *peace advocates of defensive wars*, which advocates are to be accommodated by cutting down the constitution of the society to their low level of faith. We doubt not that the contemplated change in the constitution will greatly facilitate the accession of numbers to the roll of the American Peace Society. Few, we imagine, in the civilized world, would be excluded from its fellowship. We can see no disqualifying reason why the Mexican and American soldiers who stabbed at each other's hearts in the streets of Monterey, might not alternately subscribe to the

highest article of faith remaining in the Society's creed, and that too, with the points of their bayonets newly dipped in human blood !

Peace is a spirit, and not an intellectual abstraction ; it is a life, not a theory. The separation to which we have alluded, and any other that may ensue in consequence of a change in the constitution of the American Peace Society, we devoutly hope will occasion no root, nor word, nor thought of bitterness, or unfriendly controversy. In our own case they will not ; and in the case of those who may withdraw with us we trust they will not. Let us separate in *Peace*. Let no unkind thoughts mingle in the reminiscence of our union or disunion. The world is broad enough for us all ; let there be no strife between us. The roads we are respectively taking diverge too far to bring us within the range of controversy.

To those who are indebted to us for the Advocate, we would earnestly appeal for an early remittance of our dues. We need them much, and immediately. Remittances should be addressed to Thomas Drew, Jr., Worcester, Mass.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

Gent,—The undersigned ask leave to resign the offices, which through your confidence, they have long held in the American Peace Society ;—feeling assured that the reasons they now give, will fully justify them in the course which they feel compelled to take.

The Society, under its constitution, assumes and declares that all international war, without reference to its character or object, is opposed to christianity. It makes no distinction between what are called offensive or defensive wars, but opposes the military spirit as the very opposite of the christian spirit. This is the platform, not of this society only, but so far as we know, of every peace society. It is the common sentiment of the most active friends of peace throughout the world. So prevalent is it, that within a few weeks, many thousand persons in England and in the United States have signed a pledge, binding themselves never "to yield any voluntary support or sanction to the preparation for, or prosecution of any war, by whomsoever, or for whatsoever proposed, declared or waged." And these thousands are, if we may be allowed a military figure, but the advance guard of the great army of the soldiers of Christ now enrolling themselves to contend for the peace of the world. The day of doubt and fear to the friends of peace has passed away.

Under these circumstances an attempt is made by some of our associ-